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GENERAL INFORMATION

COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. 25X1ATOPIC Information on KVP Units in Spremberg

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EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT 8 June to 5 July 1953DATE OBTAINED 5 August 1953REFERENCES 25X1APAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE 25X1X

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1. From 8 to 16 June 1953, source learned                      in Spremberg that the local barracks installation quartered a tank and an AAA unit. The tank unit was still engaged in basic training and was not yet equipped with heavy weapons. Some of the soldiers with blue epaulets were being given radio training. Motor vehicles seen near the barracks installation and in the town

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2. In the early morning hours of 17 June, the KVP units were entrained at the railroad station for employment in Berlin. About half of the VP units, whose total strength was estimated at 2,000 men, refused to obey the orders given. Some of them did not leave the barracks installation at all, another portion of the unit left the railroad station. The detraining operations were therefore discontinued. In the course of the day, workers of various factories in Spremberg and Lauchhammer went on strike. The order was restored by Soviet troops. A state of emergency was declared at Spremberg the evening of 17 June.<sup>2</sup>

3. On 18 June, source observed that the main gates of the barracks installation were guarded by Soviet soldiers. Three T-34 tanks with their guns directed toward the barracks installation were seen in the street running along the installation. Similar observations were made on all streets and roads leading to the barracks installation. A Soviet troop camp was seen in the wooded area southeast of the barracks installation. The Soviet soldiers who guarded the barracks installation, allegedly, belonged to a tank unit from Cottbus. Numerous Soviet and KVP details patrolled the town. The KVP soldiers and officers used for these patrols were considered as particularly reliable.<sup>2</sup>

4. On 19 June, source learned                      the barracks installation that the rations for the KVP units stationed there had been cut by 50 percent. Fighting had been ensued and the kitchen and ration supply dump had been demolished by enraged VP personnel.<sup>2</sup>

5. On 28 June, the tanks previously observed in the town were withdrawn but the barracks installation continued to be guarded by Soviet soldiers. The KVP personnel were restricted to their quarters. No training activities were observed at the installation.<sup>2</sup>

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6. On 1 July, KVP soldiers reappeared for the first time in Spremberg. The Soviet guards had been withdrawn from the barracks installation. Source learned                      that the barracks installation quartered 2,000 men, most of them with blue epaulets

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and a small portion with red epaulets. One Major Brendel (fnu) reportedly was the commanding officer of the KVP unit stationed in Spremberg.<sup>1</sup>

- 25X1A 1. [ ] Comment. According to other information, tank regiment No 2247 of TV 3000 is stationed in Spremberg. It is believed that an AA machine gun company whose soldiers wore red epaulets is attached to this regiment.
- 25X1A 2. [ ] Comment. The attitude shown by KVP units during the uprisings in East Germany differed greatly. Information received from numerous other KVP units indicates that no large-scale breaches of discipline occurred. See also
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